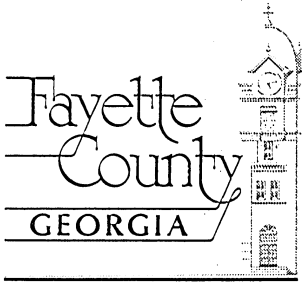


**FENCING  
REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
RESIDENTIAL  
SWIMMING POOLS**

Unincorporated Fayette County



# MEMORANDUM

TO: All Permit Holders for Swimming Pools (Contractors and Property Owners)

FROM: Building Official

This memo is given to you as a reminder of swimming pool code for ladders or steps in pools.

1999 Standard Swimming Pool Code, **Section 316 LADDERS AND STEPS:**

**"ALL POOLS, WHETHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH A LADDER OR STEPS IN THE SHALLOW END WHERE WATER DEPTH EXCEEDS 24 INCHES.**

**IN PRIVATE POOLS WHERE WATER DEPTH EXCEEDS 5 FT, THERE SHALL BE LADDERS, STAIRS, OR UNDERWATER BENCHES/SWIMOUTS IN THE DEEP END. WHERE MANUFACTURED DIVING EQUIPMENT SHALL BE USED, BENCHES OR SWIMOUTS SHALL BE RECESSED OR LOCATED IN A CORNER. ..."**

This code will be inspected for on the Electric Grounding inspection. If provisions are not there for the ladder or steps the Electric Grounding inspection will be considered not ready and automatically turned down. A \$50.00 Not Ready fee will be charged on the inspection and is required to be paid for prior to additional inspections being made. At the time of the Pool Final, should the ladder or steps not be installed completely the pool will be posted as unsafe and not to be used until the ladder or steps are complete.

**NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

I would also like to remind you that the pool contractor and the homeowner are responsible for calling this office and requesting inspections at the correct time, particularly the Pool Final.

Thank you.



Community Development Division  
Permits & Inspections Department

*Where Quality Is A Lifestyle*

Dear Builder and Homeowner:

**RE: FENCING REQUIREMENTS FOR POOLS**

Enclosed is a copy of the 1999 Standard Swimming Pool Code. Please refer to **Section 315 ENCLOSURE** (starting on page 9). This section details your requirements for providing an approved barrier (fencing) for your new pool. *Please read this carefully.* If you have any questions please direct them to one of our inspectors at (770) 460-5730 ext. 5403.

Additionally, for your information, there are two (2) inspections required for swimming pools.

The first inspection is **Electric Grounding** for the preliminary electrical work.

The second is **Pool Final**. The fence must be complete, as well as door alarms in place and the final electrical work for the pool finished.

Requests for the inspections are taken on (770) 460-5730 ext. 5404, our automated inspection request line. Calls received by 1:00 each day can expect to be inspected the following work day. We will contact the homeowner regarding pool finals to determine if someone needs to be at home for the inspection. We realize the inconvenience of someone having to be at home for the final inspection, but these codes are for your safety and welfare.

May I remind you, the pool installed at your residence is required to have a final inspection before the pool is used. Our office will work with you to set a convenient time for you and our inspector.

My staff and I look forward to working with you. If we can be of any assistance please let us know.

Thank you,

Fayette County Building Official

**STANDARD  
SWIMMING POOL CODE  
1999 EDITION**



FIRST PRINTING

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BY  
SOUTHERN BUILDING CODE CONGRESS INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
900 MONTCLAIR ROAD  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35213-1206  
205-591-1853  
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

## 312 WATER HEATING EQUIPMENT

### 312.1 Labels

Swimming pool water heating equipment shall conform to the design, construction and installation requirements in accordance with accepted engineering practices and shall bear the label of a recognized testing agency, and shall include a consideration of combustion air, venting and gas supply requirements for water heaters.

### 312.2 Water Retention

If heater is not equipped or designed for an approved permanent by-pass or anti-siphon device, an approved permanent by-pass or anti-siphon device shall be installed to provide a positive means of retaining water in the heater when the pump is not in operation.

### 312.3 Pit Drainage

When the heater is installed in a pit, the pit shall be provided with approved drainage facilities.

### 312.4 Connections

All water heating equipment shall be installed with flanges or union connection adjacent to the heater.

### 312.5 Relief Valve

When water heating equipment which is installed in a closed system has a valve between the appliance and the pool, a pressure relief valve shall be installed on the discharge side of the water heating equipment. For units up to and including 200,000 Btu/hour input, the relief valve shall be rated by the American Gas Association.

## 313 GAS PIPING

Gas piping shall comply with the Standard Gas Code.

## 314 ELECTRICAL

Electrical wiring and equipment shall comply with the National Electrical Code.

## 315 ENCLOSURE

### 315.1 Public Swimming Pools

All public swimming pools shall be completely enclosed by a fence at least 4 ft in height or a screen enclosure. Openings in the fence shall not permit the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere. The fence or screen enclosure shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching gates.

### 315.2 Residential Swimming Pools

Residential swimming pools shall comply with 315.2.1 through 315.2.3.

Exception: A swimming pool with a power safety cover, or a spa with a safety cover complying with ASTM F 1346-91.

**315.2.1 Outdoor Swimming Pools.** Outdoor swimming pools shall be provided with a barrier complying with 315.2.1.1 through 315.2.1.10.

**315.2.1.1** The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade the barrier may be at ground level or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches.

**315.2.1.2** Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

**315.2.1.3** Solid barriers which do not have openings shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

**315.2.1.4** Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches in width.

**315.2.1.5** Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches in width.

**315.2.1.6** Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2 1/4 inch square.

**Exception:** A larger mesh size may be used if the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or bottom which restrict the openings to no more than 1 3/4 inches.

**315.2.1.7** Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be no more than 1 3/4 inches.

## 316 LADDERS AND STEPS

All pools whether public or private shall be provided with a ladder or steps in the shallow end where water depth exceeds 24 inches.

In private pools where water depth exceeds 5 ft, there shall be ladders, stairs, or underwater benches/swimouts in the deep end. Where manufactured diving equipment shall be used, benches or swimouts shall be recessed or located in a corner. In public pools, there shall be steps or ladders in the shallow end and ladders in the deep end. These entry/exits shall be no more than 75 ft apart.

## 317 FINAL INSPECTION

All swimming pool installations must be completed. The pool shall be completely filled with water and in operation before final inspection.

315.2.1.8 Access gates shall comply with the requirements of 315.2.1.1 through 314.2.1.7 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outwards away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, and the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.

315.2.1.9 Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following shall apply:

1. All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and its screen are opened. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds immediately after the door is opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm shall be equipped with a manual means to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last no more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door.
2. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, or doors with positive mechanical latching or locking devices installed a minimum 54 inches above the threshold of the door, which are approved by the administrative authority shall be accepted.

315.2.1.10 Where an aboveground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then the ladder or steps either shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of 315.2.1.1 through 315.2.1.9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked, or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere.

315.2.2 Indoor Swimming Pools. All walls surrounding indoor swimming pools shall comply with 315.2.1.9.

315.2.3 Prohibited Locations. Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.